

Dove project public meeting scheduled

HARNEY COUNTY – The Malheur National Forest is holding a public meeting to discuss the Proposed Action Project on the Emigrant Creek Ranger District from 6 to 8 p.m., Oct. 19 at the Harney County Community Center, 484 N. Broadway in Burns.

The Dove project is located in the forest on the Upper South Fork John Day River watershed, within Harney and Grant Counties.

The project proposes to treat almost 27,000 acres of vegetation and com-

mercial and non-commercial treatments. Landscape scale fuel treatments are also proposed across 38,595 acres.

Forest road activities would include closing, season closing, decommissioning and opening roads.

The public comment period ends Oct. 23. The scoping document can be accessed on the Forest Service website at: www.fs.usda.gov. For a hardcopy request, questions about the meeting or project, contact Lori Bailey, NEPA Planner at 541-573-4300 or lbailey@fs.fed.us.

PLAN

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Palmer declined to comment on the plan, saying he would have to coordinate with his appointed deputies before speaking about its purpose.

Coordination is a law that requires the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management to work together with local governments on how their public lands are managed. Cities, counties and tribes can all coordinate, but the question is whether the sheriff has the same authority.

The Forest Service has no regulatory definition for local governments, though the state of Oregon defines them as "... all cities, counties and local service districts located in this state, and all administrative subdivisions of those cities, counties and local service districts."

As a rural sheriff and the head of Search and Rescue, Palmer told the commissioners in a public meeting that his job depends on active forest management — which his resources plan emphasizes as a way to reduce fire fuels. As an example, he pointed to the Canyon Creek Complex, which burned 110,000-plus acres and destroyed more than 40 homes south of John Day.

"I want a seat at the table," Palmer told commissioners. "The people I represent are not getting heard. I'm not getting heard."

To do that, Palmer deputized 11 people to write the Grant County Public Lands Natural Resources Plan, modeled on the same plan in neighboring Baker County. The deputies appointed were: Todd Smith, Elaine Smith, Mike Smith, Brooks Smith, Judy Kerr, Billie Jo George, Terry George, Dave Traylor, Roger McKinley, Jim Sproul and Frances Preston.

All 11 deputies and Palmer are members of the special interest group Citizens for Public Access, which according to the group's Facebook page is "dedicated to the retention of all forms of public access in Grant County and Eastern Oregon."

Also, six of the deputies are members of two families — Mike and Elaine Smith are the parents of Todd Smith, and Frances Preston is the sister of Billie Jo George, who is married to Terry George.

"He (Jim Sproul) just said it was a diverse group I would argue that six of the 11 people belong to two families. Is that diverse? Is that a true representation of Grant County? I would argue not necessarily," said Commissioner Boyd Britton during a discussion regarding the 11 deputized citizens chosen to put together the plan.

The plan the group crafted out of the existing Baker County plan identifies management policies for things like cattle grazing, public access, logging, mining and recreation. "Grant County will not support federal and state agencies on land management decisions when the social and economic impact is not carefully considered," it reads.

But others argue the plan doesn't represent the county at all. Former county judge Mark Webb said it appears Palmer didn't follow the county's procedures for appointing an advisory committee, nor did the committee follow Oregon's public meeting laws.

"While I appreciate the

sheriff's desire to invoke coordination status and would encourage the county court to exercise its right to coordination status, the fact remains the sheriff does not have that right," Webb said.

Commissioner Boyd Britton said he doesn't know how the committee can claim to represent all of Grant County, and despite asking several times, nobody can tell him what exactly coordination looks like. He complimented the existing Blue Mountains Forest Partners, a collaborative working group that he said has accomplished a lot of active management on the forest.

"Other communities are jealous of what we're doing," Britton said. "By golly, we're treating more acres and we're moving forward."

While the county court is hesitant, the Grant County Public Forest Commission did approve support for the sheriff at a meeting Wednesday night Oct. 7.

The public forest commission is an elected body that provides input on management issues. Two of the sheriff's appointed deputies — Roger McKinley and Dave Traylor — also serve on the commission, and took part in the vote.

The decision wasn't unanimous. Larry Blasing voted against it, admitting he was kind of in the dark about the process.

"There were a couple of us that were blind," Blasing said. "My thought was before we jump into this, let's make sure everything is correct."

Traylor, a longtime resident of the county, said the committee of sheriff's deputies will bring their plan forward to the county for a vote next spring as an initiative. He is confident it will pass by a wide majority.

"I'll gladly debate anyone who wants to come in and say coordination isn't good," Traylor said. "It's what we should have been doing all along."

Gil Riddell, policy director for the Association of Oregon Counties, said he is not sure if the sheriff needs approval from the county court to invoke coordination. However, he said the association already has agreements with the Forest Service and BLM to coordinate for counties.

"It's early sharing of information," Riddell said. "It's happened historically in many of our counties already."

Steve Beverlin, forest supervisor on the Malheur National Forest headquartered in John Day, said the agency will discuss Palmer's request. The forest works closely with the Grant County Court, he said, and believes they have a solid process of engagement.

Beverlin said he wants to establish a relationship with Palmer, and has tried diligently to communicate with him through letters, emails and phone calls.

"He's declined to engage with me at all," Beverlin said.

Beverlin said he'd love to have a coordinated Search and Rescue plan throughout the forest, and said a partnership with the sheriff's office is extremely important for the health and safety of residents.

"We're trying very hard to engage proactively, and have an open dialogue about how lands are managed in the county," he said.

Contact George Plaven at gplaven@eastoregonian.com or 541-966-0825.

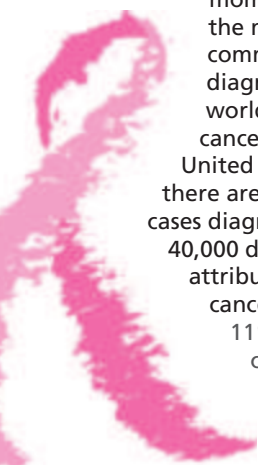


Community HEALTH BEAT

Quality Healthcare Close To Home
170 Ford Road, John Day • 541-575-1311 • www.bluemountainhospital.org

Breast Cancer Awareness

Ladies, picture this... You and seven of your friends hanging out. Take a look around; one of you will get breast cancer in your lifetime. Statistics show one in eight women develop breast cancer at some point in their life. With October being breast cancer awareness month, we should take a moment to discuss the most commonly diagnosed cancer worldwide...breast cancer.



In the United States alone there are over 230,000 cases diagnosed and 40,000 deaths a year attributed to breast cancer. About 11% of all new cases of breast cancer in the US are found in women younger than 45 years of age. Through education and early detection, these rates are decreasing and you can be part of that decrease. It is also important to understand that females are not the only ones who

can develop breast cancer. Male breast cancer represents between 0.5 and 1 percent of all breast cancers.

Risk of developing breast cancer can be multifactorial. Risk factors that increase your risk of breast cancer are the following: female gender, Caucasian race, obesity in the post-menopausal state, hormone replacement therapy, earlier menarche or later menopause, never having children, family history of breast cancer, and inherited genetic mutations such as the BRCA genes. Lifestyle factors you can be aware of that may increase your risk include alcohol and smoking. Protective factors that may reduce your risk of breast cancer include breastfeeding and regular physical activity.

Screening is of utmost importance to being a part of the above decreasing statistics. Recommendations regarding screening can vary depending upon the professional organization. The most conservative recommendation by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists recommend routine screening with mammography annually starting at the age of 40 until 74. Mammography is a noninvasive procedure. In addition, clinical breast examination by your primary care providers is recommended every three years from the ages of 20-39 and annually

thereafter. For certain high risk populations such as women with a known genetic predisposition to breast cancer (ie, BRCA1 or BRCA2), breast MRI in addition to the option of genetic testing may be indicated.

Signs and symptoms to watch for include: a breast mass (more concerning masses include being firm and non-moveable), lymph nodes felt in your armpit, abnormal nipple discharge, and skin changes overlying your breast (including redness, thickening, or dimpling). There isn't a consensus for recommendations regarding self-breast exams, but the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists recommends breast self-awareness which can include self-breast exams.

To calculate your own risk for breast cancer using the Gail model please visit <http://www.cancer.gov/bcrisktool/>

Routine screening with mammography is available at Blue Mountain Hospital and you can call 541-575-4163 to schedule yours today. For your clinical breast exam and any concerns please visit your local primary care provider for evaluation. Go pink in October!

Emily Lieuallen DO
Strawberry Wilderness Clinic
Blue Mountain Hospital

2015 Blue Mountain Healthcare Foundation Annual Meeting, Dinner & Auction

Saturday, October 24th - Grant County Fairgrounds

Pendleton Round-Up Basket, 14 K Diamond Earrings, Wildhorse Resort Hotel/RV Gift Certificate, 3 night stay at Wallowa Lake

Wood Brick/Wood Pellet pallet from Malheur Lumber and Land Owner Preference tag on Oliver Property

Dinner Menu
Catered by:
The Snaffle Bit Dinner House,
Brenda Coley

- 12-oz New York Strip
- Stuffed Baked Potato
- Mixed Vegetables
- Tossed Green Salad
- Dessert, Coffee, and Lemonade

Fun All Evening

5:30 pm
No host bar, games & auction item viewing

6:30 pm
Dinner, silent auction bidding continues

7:30 pm
Business meeting, election of board of directors and success presentation

Costume Contest - Winner to receive \$100

Wood Splitter Drawing

Silent Auction & Oral Auction

Fill out the registration and mail to the address shown, or drop off at the reception area of Blue Mountain Hospital. Check in at the door - your name will be on the dinner list.

To RSVP by phone or for more information, call:

Randall Mee at 541-575-4151 or Judy Krutsinger at 541-620-1010 or email jkruts@hotmail.com

Dinner Reservations
Mail • Deliver • Call • Email

Dinner _____ \$30 each or 2 for \$50 Total Enclosed \$ _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Blue Mountain Healthcare Foundation • 170 Ford Rd., John Day, OR 97845

October Visiting Specialists

Oct. 7th Dr. McLellan - Bend Cardio	Oct. 15th Dennis Sell - Bend Hearing
Oct. 7th Bill Corrigan - Bend Urology	Oct. 21st Dr. McLellan - Bend Cardio
Oct. 9th Dr. Sandefur - Baker Ortho	Oct. 23rd Dr. Sandefur - Baker Ortho
Oct. 13th Dr. Rushton - Baker Podiatrist	Oct. 27th Dr. Rushton - Baker Podiatrist